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the gift of an absolute equitable interest, as distinguished from a life interest, would be held valid in Pennsylvania. Since then in a series of decisions culminating in *Spring's Estate*, 216 Pa. 529, this very restraint has been held legal, and the prayer of an adult beneficiary for a conveyance of the fee from the trustee refused, as in the leading Massachusetts case of *Clafin v. Clafin*. H. F. S.

A TREATISE ON THE LAW OF INSOLVENT AND FAILING CORPORATIONS. By S. Walter Jones. Kansas City: Vernon Law Book Company. 1908. pp. xxv, 1011.

Mr. Jones has had the hardihood to venture into a field as yet untouched by the myriad of text-books. It is, however, a field that has been gradually expanding until its limits now are so extensive that a single text-book hardly suffices to cover the ground. Indeed, corporation law is fast becoming a vast system of intricate and complex rules, which threaten to form the major and the most important portion of our commercial law; and however much we may deplore this tendency and the evidence of it in the continual increase of the books devoted solely to matter of corporate law, we must face its development.

As is too often the case, the author has given too little space to a development of the history of the principles with which he deals and the philosophy behind them, and too much space to a mere narration of what various cases have decided. We cannot help regretting that there are so few who seem willing to follow in the footsteps of Professor Wigmore, or even to pattern their works after his admirable example. But the systematic and laborious compilation of authorities in itself makes this book a useful one to the profession. F. W. B.

THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN. By Philip Nichols. Boston: Boston Book Company. 1909. pp. xxi, 560.

This text-book is limited to a treatment of the fundamental principles of constitutional law adopted and applied by the courts in defining the proper exercise of the power of eminent domain. The author was until recently an Assistant Corporation Counsel of the city of Boston, and compiled this book during eleven years' service in the Law Department of that city. He deserves credit for attempting this concise and intensive study of the borderland lying between constitutional law and the law of eminent domain. Throughout his work, the author's purpose is to condense and to save the reader's time by a systematic statement of principles, supported by numerous case citations in footnotes. But his book is more than a digest of cases. It shows independence of judgment; as, for example, in the definition of "public use" and in the criticism of the doctrine of certain courts which allow abutters' easements in highways when the fee is in the public.

E. D. B.

THE HAGUE PEACE CONFERENCES OF 1899 AND 1907. By James Brown Scott. In two volumes. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1909. pp. xiv, 887; vii, 548.

In the first volume we find the individual work of the author. Mr. Scott is especially prepared to write on this subject by his experience as Technical Delegate and Expert in International Law attached to the United States delegation at the Second Peace Conference, of 1907. The touch of personal familiarity with the matter in hand which is so evident in this volume could have no other source.

The second volume is a compilation of the various diplomatic papers which